Editor: Holly Berthold, *Metro Media Specialist*Layout: Rene Parker, *Administrative Staff Assistant*

Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Dr., St. Louis, MO 63112 For reservations call (314) 877-1309.

26 Bats are Beautiful?!

Wednesday 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. (All Ages) Come explore the "creatures of the night" that we sometimes call creepy. We will learn about Missouri's mysterious flying mammals and discover

why they are beneficial, and often misunderstood.

Play an echolocation game and make a bat box (one per family) to take home! *Naturalist: Amy Anderson.* (Reservations begin October 12.)

For Busch and Henges Range information and activities, please call (636) 441-4554 for a free subscription to Conservation Connections.



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Making Tracks

St. Louis Regional Calendar of Events

October 2005

Volume 05, Number 10



The Meaning of Interpretation

By Tamie M. Yegge, Nature Center Manager s I sat by the river one day, watching my children catching minnows and crayfish, I thought about how they must see the world. Much differently than I do, that's for sure. They still have a simple, innocent view of things, their minds not full of our adult responsibilities. They were laughing and splashing, and my eight-year-old son was wondering if the crayfish would eat the tadpole. "What do you think?" I asked him.

My mind wandered as I looked for various birds, listened to the sound of the water and picked up rocks to see what was underneath. I turned over a flat rock, but found nothing, so, I called to the kids to start a rock skipping contest. My daughter, 13, skipped a rock all the way across the river to the other bank. We all laughed and hurriedly looked for more rocks to skip. This sure beat another day in front of the TV and computer screen. "This is why I do the kind of work I do," I thought.

What kind of work is that? For the last 15 years, I've worked in the field of Interpretation. People sometimes look at me like I'm crazy when I say that; others ask what language I interpret; and others simply ask what it is. Freeman Tilden, whose principles are the basis for every interpreter's work, defines Interpretation as: "An educational activity which aims to reveal meanings and relationships through the use of original objects, by firsthand experience, and by illustrative media, rather than simply to communicate factual information."

Have you ever sat by the river and seen things but you have no idea what they are? Birds, plants, fish, animal tracks? It is my job, and the interpretive staff of MDC, to teach you. Not by sitting you in a classroom and telling you, but by sharing the experience with you. It is up to us to find a personal connection between you and what

we are teaching. Professional interpreters must be able to communicate with all ages and backgrounds, and must know the Grade Level Expectations established by the state of Missouri for the schools we reach. Interpretation is a profession in which there are established four-year college programs and many of us are biologists as well. We must know at least a little about all aspects of nature and conservation. It also requires imagination, creativity, interpersonal skills, energy, enthusiasm and the ability to keep up with many current events. It's our job to teach without people really noticing how much they're learning!

A big splash brought me back to reality and I found both my kids chasing a cricket frog. "Grab it!" my son said to my daughter. "Got it!" she yelled back and brought it to me. "Mom, why do they call it a cricket frog? How do you know what it is? Is that as big as it gets?" I want to share my knowledge of nature and conservation with people. Knowledge inspires interest, and interest creates respect. This is why interpreters do what they do, and this is why I do what I do.



October 2005 Page 2

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From Hwy 40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 3 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/

3 Fill the Bill

Monday 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (Ages 10-12) The shape and size of the bill has developed for particular bird species because of the environment, habitat and feeding requirements. Come and have fun discovering what eyedroppers, tweezers chopsticks and pliers have in common with birds bills. Naturalist: Linda Lopez. (Reservations begin September 19.)

Seeds in Motion

Monday

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 3-5) How do seeds get from one place to another? Join us as we learn about the different types of seeds and how they move. Please bring an old, adult-sized tube sock for seed collection. Naturalist: Shanna Raeker. (Reservations begin September 19.)

Howell Island Hike 8

Saturday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

(Ages 12 & up) Can you name five Missouri animals that have been taken off the endangered species list due to human intervention? Join us for a 5-mile hike on Howell Island and listen to clues about these animals. Will you be able to guess all five? Dress for the weather and bring a lunch. A nature journal of all five animals will be given to the participants at the end of the hike. Naturalist: Angie Naughton. (Reservations begin September 26.)

14 **Dutch Oven Cooking**

Friday 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (Families) Nothin' says lovin' like something from the oven. Have you ever wanted to learn to bake at the campfire? Now's your chance to experience the basics of Dutch oven desserts. Naturalist: Shanna Raeker. (Reservations begin September 30.)

Catfishing

Friday *6:30 p.m.* − *8:30 p.m.* (Families) Catfishing isn't just a summertime sport! Learn techniques of catfishing and a simple helpful trick for night fishing. Must have a valid fishing license. This is a catch-and-release program. Naturalists: Mark Hunstein & Al Newman. (Reservations begin October 7.)

22 Lewis Hike

October 10.)

Saturday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.(Adults) Join us for an 8.3-mile hike through the forests at Weldon Spring Conservation Area. We will be looking for fall colors in the trees and shrubs. The Missouri River overlooks offer panoramic views of the floodplains and varying fall colors, from the bottomland forests to the oak, hickory and maple forest on the high terrain of the river bluffs. Naturalist: Marv Staloch. (Reservations begin

26 Dyeing Things Naturally

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

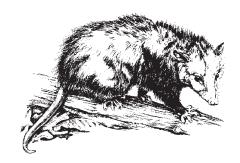
(Ages 7-12) Color makes things more appealing and since prehistoric times, humans from across the globe have used plant pigments to enrich their lives. Learn which plants or berries can be used to make natural dyes. Experience firsthand how early settlers dyed their clothes by getting your hands dirty with dyes made from flowers, grass, berries and roots. Experience the wonder likely felt by the early settlers who first discovered natural dyes as you select different plant materials and dve your own shirt. Naturalist: Gladys Kullman. (Reservations begin October 12.)

Who's Awake?

Saturday

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 2-4) Who's awake while you are sleeping? We will learn about nocturnal animals that might live near you. Naturalist: Mary Cunningham. (Reservations begin October 14.)



October 2005 Page 7

Birding Conservation Areas in the Late Summer, Fall and Winter By: Mike Arduser, Natural History Biologist Winter

The spectacular rush, color and intensity of the spring bird migration is an eagerly awaited extravaganza—but the return migration in late summer and fall is a subtle event, little more than a whisper by comparison. Inconspicuous, it is spread out over several months, without a dramatic peak. Shorebirds begin appearing in August, neotropical migrants in September and October, and waterfowl even later. Many returning migrants lack their bright, distinctive breeding plumage, making identification more challenging, and their vocalizations are muted and brief, almost like they are trying to slip by unnoticed. During this time of year, where to bird depends on when you bird. Below are a few suggestions for birding Conservation Areas in the St. Louis Region in late summer, fall and winter.

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

This newly opened Department area features a three-mile trail along the Missouri River, the River's Edge Trail. The trail's upstream end is an excellent place to search for warblers and other neotropical migrants in the last half of September and the first half of October. Later on, in fall and winter look here for sparrows. The dense tangle and scattered opening adjacent to the trail offer good opportunities to view and study these

Some of the wetlands at Columbia Bottom may hold enough water to attract shorebirds from mid-August through September. Staff at the Columbia Bottom Conservation Area office (314-877-6014) can provide information on the status of the wetlands.

Columbia Bottom also features a viewing platform at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers, with a commanding view across the confluence and several sandbars. In the fall and winter months, this is a great vantage point to scan for eagles, waterfowl, gulls and other waterbirds. A powerful spotting scope is recommended, but not necessary.



common snipe

Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area

This managed wetland area in St. Charles County is well-known among birders for its marsh and waterbirds. Depending on the year, the area may be very good for shorebirds and some marsh birds from mid-August and September, and later on for waterfowl. It is an excellent place for northern harriers, short-eared owls and winter sparrows as well. Walking is easy because of the levee system. The area is closed from dawn until 1 p.m. during the waterfowl hunting season; call or visit the regional office prior to your trip to learn more about the current year's waterfowl hunting dates.

Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/

1 Let's Go Caving!

Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon (Ages 7 & up) Enter the underground world of Rockwoods Cave! Learn about a cave ecosystem and the importance wildlife plays in it. This handson exploration requires crawling on your stomach for several feet. Wear long pants and a long-sleeved shirt and bring a flashlight. Helmets will be provided. Program is limited to 25 participants. This program will be presented in sign language and is for deaf and hard-of-hearing families and friends. Naturalist: Sheri Medlock. (Reservations begin September 20.)

6 Squirrels: Friend or Foe?

Thursday 7 p.m. -8 p.m. (Families) How many creatures can sit in the shadow of a squirrel's tail? Who has two front teeth that grow 6 inches each year? Find out about our amazing squirrels and build a feeder to take home. *Naturalist: Mary Demmitt.* (Reservations begin September 22.)

7 Butterflies Flutter By

Friday 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. (Ages 5-7) Monarch butterflies flutter their annual migration south. Observe these beautiful insects at their Rockwoods rest area at the butterfly garden. We will recreate the monarch's growth stages through play. Naturalist: Michaela Turner. (Reservations begin September 23.)

8 Scout Discovery Table: Forest Trees

Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (Scouts) Sure, trees are fun to climb, but did you ever stop and take a closer look at one? We'll look at a tree's growth rings, learn to identify some common trees by their leaves, and get to better know our local trees. **Webelos:** Forester #3, #4; **Brownies:** Plants #2, #4; **Juniors:** Earth Connections #3, #4, #8; Science Discovery #5. Naturalists: Glenn & Trish Senter & John Ruprecht. (No reservations necessary.)

9 Fall Colors

Sunday 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m. (Families) Come join us as we explore the magnificent season of autumn. We will learn why leaves change colors; take a short hike through the forest; and return to the classroom to create a fun fall craft. Naturalists: Sally Roberts & Karen Kelly. (Reservations begin September 26.)

16 Dutch Oven Cooking

Sunday 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

(Families) Imagine a crisp, fall evening and wafting smells of food being cooked in a Dutch oven. What better way to end a week than to enjoy a sampling of dessert with us? Come taste, enjoy and pick up a few tips on Dutch oven cooking, too! Naturalist: Jane Deschu.

(Reservations begin October 3.)

22 Greenrock Trail: Fall Colors

Saturday 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

(Ages 12 & up) Join us for a 10-mile hike along Green Rock Trail, one of the finest woods walks to be found in a large metropolitan area. We will explore Rockwoods Range, Greensfelder County Park and Rockwoods Reservation, three of St. Louis's prettiest green spaces. (Please be aware, this trail is strenuous and includes numerous creek crossings and steep grades.) *Naturalists: Glenda Myers & Jerry Rinaldi*. (Reservations begin October 6.)

Bird Feeders

Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (Families) Learn which seeds attract which birds, then build a feeder (one per family) to take home to try out your new knowledge. Please bring a hammer. Naturalist: Jim Westbury. (Reservations begin October 7.)

29 Fall Trees & Flowers

Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon (Families) Join us in discovering the beauty of the fall colors in the trees and flowers. We will show you how to identify the trees and flowers on a short hike through the woods. Naturalists: Glenn Senter & John Ruprecht. (Reservations begin October 17.)

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are Wednesday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday – Sunday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. For reservations call (314) 877-6014 Wednesday through Sunday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/

Migration: Look Who's Visiting Columbia Bottom

Saturday 8 a.m. – 10 a.m. (All Ages) We'll try to identify those species of birds using the flyway to reach far destinations, as well as those that migrate "south" to Missouri. Bring binoculars and field guides. *Naturalist: Catherine McGrane*. (Reservations begin immediately.)

5 Babes in the Woods

Wednesday 9 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. (Ages Birth-3) Join us for a stroller walk and together we will use our senses to discover our natural environment. Volunteer Naturalist: Lisa Reid. (Reservations begin September 21.)

5 River Ramble

Wednesday 9 a.m. – Noon (Ages 18 & up) Calling all adults who want to enjoy a leisurely hike at Columbia Bottom. We will be looking for fall flowers and migrating birds. Volunteer Naturalist: Lena Dowers. (Reservations begin September 21.)

8 Scout Discovery Table: Bird ID/Flyways

Saturday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.. (Scouts) **Wolves** can complete Birds (Elective 13d). **Rebels** can complete Outdoor Group: Naturalist #3 and #5. **Junior Girl Scouts** can complete Let's Get Outdoors: Wildlife #3 and #8. (No reservations necessary.)

15 Girl Scouts: Try-It Time

Saturday 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. (Brownie Girl Scouts) Ready to become an Eco-Explorer? We will go on a nature scavenger hunt, create a habitat, and discover what a food chain is! *Volunteer Naturalist: Lisa Reid.* (Reservations begin October 1.)

Wildlife Wonders for Junior Girl Scouts

Saturday 10:30 a.m. – Noon (Junior Girl Scouts) We will have a busy time completing the requirements for the Wildlife badge, as well as discovering what's wonderful about Missouri's wildlife. Naturalist: Catherine McGrane. (Reservations begin October 1.)

16 Celebrate Autumn! 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

(Ages 5-7) Autumn is a time for big changes in trees! Take a hike with us to celebrate the wonders of these changes, from chemical changes inside leaves to the production of seeds and fruit. *Volunteer Naturalist: Barbra Stephenson*. (Reservations begin October 1.)

18 Autumn Hike

Tuesday 9:30 a.m. – 11 a.m. (Ages 7-15) Let's take a hike to investigate the changes that signal the end of the growing season. For those who made "Tree Logs" last October, please bring them with you. Volunteer Naturalist: Pat Behle. (Reservations begin October 4.)

October 2005 Page 3

21 Along Came a Spider 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

(Ages 2-6) Come explore the wonderful world of spiders. With more than 300 different kinds of spiders living in Missouri, it's a big world to discover. *Volunteer Naturalist: Lena Dowers*. (Reservations begin October 7.)

22 Discovery Table: White-Tailed Wonderland

Saturday 3 p.m. -6 p.m. (All Ages) Join us for an evening watching deer and learning about the largest game mammal in Missouri. Bring your binoculars or peer through our spotting scopes to get an up-close look at these magnificent animals. *Volunteer Naturalist: Craig Vincent.* (No reservations necessary.)

Smokey Bear

Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 3-6) Do you know who says, "Only you can prevent forest fires"? That's right, Smokey Bear.

Discover how you can help Smokey
Bear protect trees from forest fires.

There will be a special appearance by Smokey Bear himself! Volunteer

Naturalist: Kathy Schroeder.

(Reservations begin October 15.)

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 Nature Center hours are daily from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/

Scout Discovery Table: Poisonous Things (Self-guided exhibit)

Saturday $10 \ a.m. - 2 \ p.m.$ (All Ages) What's the difference between "venomous" and "poisonous"? Discover the answer to this question and others you may have about poisonous things. Activities are designed for Junior Girl Scouts, Cub Wolves and Webelos. Juniors can work on Let's Get Outdoors: Wildlife 5 and Plants and Animals 9. Webelos can work on Outdoor Group: Naturalist 6. Wolves can work on Outdoor Adventure: Elective 18 g. All are welcome and encouraged to check it out! Staff Naturalist: David Bradford. (No reservations necessary.)

3 Hiking at Powder Valley

Monday 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.(Adults) We will hike Hickory Ridge Trail to see birds, trees and possibly wildflowers. Volunteer Naturalist: Tom O'Gorman. (Reservations begin September 19.)

Feeding Frenzy! 6

Noon-1 p.m.Thursday (All Ages) Are the fish missing the end of your line? Well then come on in and discover why fish are extraordinary feeders! We'll even get to watch a live feeding! The program will be conducted at the Powder Valley Nature Center aquarium. Staff Naturalist: Kevin McCarthy. (Reservations begin September 23.)

8&9 **Discover Outdoor Missouri**

Saturday & Sunday $10 \ a.m. - 2 \ p.m.$ (All Ages) MDC lands include over 700 public sites and have something for everyone in every season from family getaways to wildlife experiences to peace and solitude. Stop by our Exploring Outdoor Missouri Discovery Table in the lobby and learn about MDC Conservation Areas. Volunteer Naturalists: Dick and Neva Wasson. (No reservations necessary.)

24 Hiking at Powder Valley

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Monday (Adults) We will hike Broken Ridge Trail to see which birds and trees we can identify. Volunteer Naturalist: Tom O'Gorman. (Reservations begin October 10.)

October Nature Shop Special

Conservation Trails: A Guide to Missouri Department of Conservation Hiking Trails, Second Edition

The trail guide has been completely revised to highlight 85 trails on 40 Missouri Department of Conservation areas. Many of the trails included in this book are open to foot traffic only. Some are open to horses and bicycles. Trail lengths vary from 0.2 mile to 18 miles, with hiking opportunities that range from easy and level paved paths to difficult and rugged natural-surface trails. This informative guide can be purchased at the Powder Valley Nature Shop for only \$4 through the month of October.

October Homeschool Programs

HOMESCHOOL

Dugout Days 19&20

Wednesday & Thursday 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.(Families) Come witness the savvy and craftsmanship used by the pioneers of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery, as authentic reenactors demonstrate the steps used to construct the vessels that played a critical role in their voyage, the dugout canoe. Students will learn how to choose the proper log, the different tools used in dugout construction, and the important roles the dugout canoes played in the Discovery Expedition. Children will also have the opportunity to learn about the keelboat, another vessel used by these brave pioneers, and practice hunting and fishing skills used by Corps members for dayto-day survival. MDC Staff. (Reservations begin September 1.)

HOMESCHOOL AT HENGES

Call Powder Valley for reservations

24 For Bats Sake!

Monday 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (Families) Is it true what they say about bats? Why should we want bats around anyway? Learn the answers to these questions and more! THIS PROGRAM IS AT HENGES RANGE & TRAINING CENTER (Beaumont-Antire Rd. & Hwy 44). Staff Naturalist: Colleen Scott. (Reservations begin October 10.)

October Hallway Exhibit William H. Hilker, Jr.

Bill Hilker is a St. Louis native who has had an interest in art since childhood. After operating a typesetting and graphics business, his interest in art was rekindled while visiting a studio at the Kansas City Art Institute, where one of his daughters attended college.

Self-taught in oils, pencil, charcoal, watercolor and acrylics, Bill finds challenges in a wide range of subject matter including portraiture, landscape, still life, wildlife or other figurative work. He has exhibited various pieces with the Society of Independent Artists of St. Louis.

For many years, Bill and his wife have hiked at Powder Valley and many other nature areas. state and county parks. They have learned much about what nature has to offer from their own observations and with help from volunteer naturalists.

"My goal is to make a good representation using all the tools and skills I have acquired. Some of my favorite American artists and illustrators include Remington, Rockwell, Russell and N.C. Wyeth. For this show, I chose to depict scenes and activities in and around Powder Valley. Thanks to Powder Valley for allowing me to show my work. I hope you enjoy the show and your visit to Powder Valley."

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center Nature Films

October 1 & 2

(No films this weekend.)

October 8 & 9

9 a.m. - 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. J(ust)K(iddin')A(round) 2000-13 Eyewitness: Tree

10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. - 4 p.m.**Outdoor Outing** Exploring Outdoor Missouri

Natural Adventures Close to Home: St. Louis Natural Adventures Close to Home: Springfield Shannon County

Natural Adventures Close to Home: Kansas City

October 15 & 16

 $9 \ a.m. - 10 \ a.m. \& 12:30 \ p.m. - 1:30 \ p.m.$ Bugz Eyewitness: Insect

10 a.m. − 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. − 4 p.m. Fall Color: Trees of the Eastern Forests Hawks Up Close Hawks: FNL A Wild Chorus

October 22 & 23

9 a.m. - 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Eyewitness: Skeleton Eyewitness: Monster

10 a.m. − 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 p.m. − 4 p.m. Tarantula! Season of the Bat The Snakes Tale The World of the Wily Black Bear A Way of Life

October 29 & 30

 $9 \ a.m. - 10:30 \ a.m. \& 12:30 \ p.m. - 2 \ p.m.$ The Magic School Bus: Creepy, Crawly Fun! (Sounds, Bats, & Spiders)

10:30 a.m. − 12:30 p.m. & 2 p.m. − 4 p.m. Owls Up Close Caves

Time Shadow: Encounter with the Whitetail



Shown in the Auditorium - Free of Charge - Groups Welcome! No reservations necessary.

Powder Valley Volunteer Milestones

Bob Anderson	3,100 hours
Carl Combs	1,300 hours
Joan Hummel	3.400 hours

Tom O'Gorman	3,100 hours	.
Shirley Pearlstone		
Neva Wasson	4,200 hours	

David Winkler	1,300 hours
Ginnie Young	1,800 hours